

03500.017763

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Koji MASUDA

Application No.: 10/729,941

Filed: December 9, 2003

For: DEVELOPING APPARATUS

)  
: Examiner: Unassigned  
)  
: Group Art Unit: Unassigned  
)  
:  
)  
:  
) January 23, 2004

Commissioner for Patents  
Post Office Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the patent documents listed on the enclosed citation Form PTO-1449. A copy of each of the non-English-language patent documents and an available English-language Abstract are also enclosed.

STATEMENT/PETITION/FEE

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), since a first Official Action has not been received in the above-identified application, neither a Statement, Petition, nor payment of a fee is required

for this Information Disclosure Statement. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee, which may be deemed necessary in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement to Deposit Account No. 06-1205. A duplicate of this Information Disclosure Statement is enclosed for that purpose.

#### REMARKS

Japanese Patent Document No. 2-21591 matured from Japanese Patent Document No. 59-100471, which is discussed at least at page 2, line 8 through page 3, line 16 of the specification.

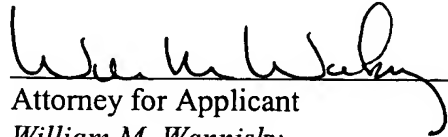
#### CONCLUSION

It is respectfully requested that the cited information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Favorable consideration hereof is earnestly solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our New York office at the address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicant

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WMW:tas

FORM PTO 1449 (modified)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICELIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S)  
(Use several sheets if necessary)

Submitted to the PTO: January 23, 2004

ATTY DOCKET NO.  
**03500.017763**APPLICATION NO.  
**10/729,941**

APPLICANT

**Koji MASUDA**

FILING DATE

**December 9, 2003**

GROUP

**Unassigned**

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| *EXAMINER<br>INITIAL | DOCUMENT<br>NUMBER     | DATE            | NAME                  | CLASS      | SUBCLASS   | FILING DATE<br>IF APPROPRIATE |
|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|------------|------------|-------------------------------|
|                      | <b>6,449,441 B2</b>    | <b>09/10/02</b> | <b>Masuda</b>         | <b>399</b> | <b>58</b>  |                               |
|                      | <b>2002/0072588 A1</b> | <b>04/17/03</b> | <b>Sakemi, et al.</b> | <b>399</b> | <b>223</b> |                               |
|                      |                        |                 |                       |            |            |                               |
|                      |                        |                 |                       |            |            |                               |
|                      |                        |                 |                       |            |            |                               |
|                      |                        |                 |                       |            |            |                               |
|                      |                        |                 |                       |            |            |                               |
|                      |                        |                 |                       |            |            |                               |

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| DOCUMENT<br>NUMBER | DATE            | COUNTRY      | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION<br>YES/NO/<br>OR ABSTRACT |
|--------------------|-----------------|--------------|-------|----------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>59-100471</b>   | <b>06/09/84</b> | <b>Japan</b> |       |          | <b>Abstract</b>                       |
| <b>2-21591</b>     | <b>05/15/90</b> | <b>Japan</b> |       |          | <b>No</b>                             |
|                    |                 |              |       |          |                                       |
|                    |                 |              |       |          |                                       |
|                    |                 |              |       |          |                                       |
|                    |                 |              |       |          |                                       |
|                    |                 |              |       |          |                                       |

## OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Sheet 1 of 1